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Smith, Matthew
James

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Moon's

DECLARATION

AND

REMONSTRANCE

Of the distressed and bleeding Frontier Inhabitants

Of the Province of *Pennsylvania*,

Presented by them to the Honourable the GOVERNOR and
ASSEMBLY of the Province,

Shewing the

C A U S E S

Of their late *Discontent* and *Uneasiness* and the

G R I E V A N C E S

Under which they have laboured, and which they humbly pray to
have redress'd.

Printed in the Year M,DCC,LXIV.

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A Declaration &c.

INasmuch as the killing those *Indians* at *Conestogo Mannor* and *Lancaster*, has been, and may be the Subject of much Conversation; and by invidious Representations of it, which some, we doubt not, will industriously spread, many, unacquainted with the true State of Affairs, may be led to pass a severer Censure on the Authors of those Facts, and any others of those like Nature, which may hereafter happen, than we are persuaded they would if matters were duly understood and deliberated: We think it therefore proper thus openly to declare ourselves, and render some brief Hints of the Reasons of our Conduct; which we must, and frankly do confess nothing but Necessity itself could induce us to, or justify us in; as it bears an Appearance of flying in the Face of Authority, and is attended with much Labour, Fatigue and Expence.

OURSELVES then, to a Man, we profess loyal Subjects to the best of Kings, our rightful Sovereign *GEORGE* the *THIRD*, firmly attached to his Royal Person, Interest and Government: And of Consequence equally opposite to the Enemies of his Throne and Dignity,

whether openly avowed or more dangerously concealed under a Mask of falsely pretended Friendship, and chearfully willing to offer our Substance and Lives in his Cause.

THESE *Indians* known to be firmly connected in Friendship with our openly avowed imbittered Enemies; and some of whom have, by several Oaths, been proved to be Murderers; and, who, by their better Acquaintance with the Situation and State of our Frontiers, were more capable of doing us Mischief, we saw with Indignation cherished and caressed as dearest Friends — But this alas! is but a Part, a small Part of that excessive Regard manifested to *Indians* beyond his Majesty's loyal Subjects, whereof we complain: And which together with various other Greivances have not only enflamed with Resentment the Breasts of a Number, and urged them to the disagreeable Evidence of it, they have been constrained to give, but have heavily displeased, by far, the greatest part of the good Inhabitants of this Province.

SHOULD we here reflect to former Treaties, the exorbitant Presents, and great Servility therein paid to *Indians*, have long been oppressive Grievances we have groaned under. And when at the last *Indian* Treaty held at *Lancaster*, not only was the Blood of our many murdered Brethren tamely covered, but our poor unhappy captivated Friends abandoned to Slavery among the Savages, by concluding a Friendship with

with the *Indians* and allowing them a plenteous Trade of all kinds of Commodities, without those being restored, altho' a spirited Requisition was made of them; how general Dissatisfaction those Measures gave, the Murmurs of all good People (loud as they dare to utter them) to this Day declare: And had here, infatuated Steps of Conduct and a manifest Partiality in favour of *Indians* made a final Pause, happy had it been; we perhaps had grieved in silence for our abandoned, enslaved Brethren among the Heathens. But matters of a later Date are still more flagrant Reasons of Complaint. When last Summer his Majesty's Forces under the Command of Col. BOUQUET marched through this Province and a Demand was made by His Excellency Gen. AMHERST of Assistance to escort Provisions &c. to relieve that important Post, Fort *Pitt*, yet not one Man was granted, altho' never any Thing appeared more reasonable or necessary, as the Interest of the Province lay so much at stake and the Standing of the Frontier Settlements in any manner, evidently depended, under God, on the almost despaired of Success of his Majesty's little Army, whose Valour the whole Frontiers with Gratitude acknowledge as the happy Means of having saved from ruin great part of the Province. But when a Number of *Indians* falsely pretended Friends, and having among them, some proved on Oath to have been guilty of Murder, since this War

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begun, when they together with others known to be his Majesty's Enemies and who had been in the Battle against Col. BOUQUET, reduced to Distress by the Destruction of their Corn at the *Great Island*, and up the East Branch of *Susquehanna*, pretend themselves Friends, and desire a Subsistence they are openly cared for, and the Publick, that could not be indulged the Liberty of contributing to his Majesty's Assistance, obliged, as Tributaries to Savages, to support those Villains, those Enemies to our King and our Country. Nor only so, but the Hands that were closely shut, nor would grant his Majesty's General one single Farthing against a Savage Foe, have been liberally opened, and the publick Money lavishly prostituted to hire, at an exorbitant Rate, a mercenary Guard, to protect his Majesty's worst of Enemies, those falsely pretended *Indian* Friends, while at the same Time hundreds of poor distressed Families of his Majesty's Subjects, obliged to abandon their Possessions, and flee for their Lives at least, except a small Relief, at first, in the most distressing Circumstances, were left to starve neglected, save what the friendly Hand of private Donations has contributed to their Support; wherein they, who are most profuse towards Savages, have carefully avoided having any Part. When last Summer the Troops raised for Defence of the Province, were limited to certain Bounds, nor suffered to attempt an-
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moyering our Enemies in their Habitations, and
 a Number of brave Volunteers, equipped at
 their own Expence, marched in *September* up
 the *Susquehanna*, met and defeated their Enemy
 with the loss of some of their Number, and
 having others dangerously wounded, not the
 least Thanks or Acknowledgment was made
 them from the Legislature for the confessed
 Service they had done, nor any the least Notice
 or Care taken of their wounded. Whereas,
 when a *Seneca* Indian, who, by the Information
 of many, as well as by his own Confession, had
 been through the last War an inveterate Enemy
 had got a Cut in his Head last Summer, in
 a Quarrel he had with his own Cousin, and it
 was reported in *Philadelphia* that his Wound
 was dangerous; a Doctor was immediately em-
 ployed and sent to Fort *Augusta* to take care of
 him and cure him if possible. To these may be
 added, that though it was impossible to obtain
 thro' the Summer or even yet any Premium for
Indian Scalps or Encouragement to excite Vo-
 lunteers to go forth against them, yet when
 a few of them known to be the fast Friends of
 our Enemies, and some of them Murderers
 themselves; when these have been struck by
 a distressed, bereft, injured Frontier, a liberal
 Reward is offered for apprehending the Perpe-
 trators of that horrible Crime of killing his Ma-
 jesty's cloaked Enemies: And their Conduct
 painted in the most atrocious Colours, while the
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horrid Ravages, cruel Murders and most shocking Barbarities committed by *Indians* on His Majesty's Subjects are covered over and excused under the charitable Term of this being their Method of making War.

BUT to recount the many repeated Grievances whereof we might justly complain, and Instances of a most violent Attachment to *Indians*, were tedious beyond the Patience of a Job to endure. Nor can better be expected nor need we be surprized at *Indian* Intolence and Villainy when it is considered, and which can be proved from the publick Records in a certain County, That some time before *Conrad Weiser* died, some *Indians* belonging to the *Great Island* or *Wyaloosing* assured him that——
——(an ancient Leader of that Faction, which for so long a Time have found Means to enslave the Province to *Indians*) together with others of the Friends, had given them a Rod to scourge the white People that were settled on the purchased Lands; for that *ONAS* had cheated them out of a great deal of Land, or had not given near sufficient price for what he had bought. And that the Traders ought also to be scourged; for that they defrauded the *Indians* by selling Goods to them at too dear a Rate, and that this Relation is matter of fact, can easily be proved in the County of *Berks*. Such is our unhappy Situation, under the Villany, Infatuation and Influence of a certain Faction that have got the
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political Reigns in their Hand and tamely tyrannize over the other good Subjects of the Province! And can it be thought strange, that a Scene of such Treatment as this, and the now adding in this critical Juncture to all our former Distresses, that disagreeable Burden of supporting, in the very Heart of the Province, at so great an Expence, between One and Two Hundred Savages, to the great Disquietude of the Majority of the good Inhabitants of this Province, should awaken the Resentment of a People grossly abused, unrighteously burdened, and made Dupes and Slaves to Indians? And must not all well disposed People entertain a charitable Sentiment of those, who at their own great Expence and Trouble, have attempted, or shall attempt rescuing a labouring Land from a Weight so oppressive, unreasonable and unjust? It is this we Design, it is this we are resolved to prosecute, tho' it is with great Reluctance we are obliged to adopt a Measure, not so agreeable as could be desired, and to which Extremity alone compels.

G O D Save the K I N G.

February, 1764.

To the Honourable *JOHN PENN*,
Esquire, Governor of the Province of
Pennsylvania, and of the Counties of
New-Castle, Kent and Suffex, on
Delaware; and to the Representatives
of the Free-Men of said Province, in
Assembly met.

WE *Matthew Smith*, and *James Gibson*,
in behalf of ourselves, and his Majes-
ty's faithful and loyal Subjects, the
Inhabitants of the Frontier Counties of *Lancas-
ter, York, Cumberland, Berks*, and *Northampton*,
humbly beg Leave to remonstrate, and to lay be-
fore you, the following Grievances, which we
submit to your Wisdom for Redress.

1st. WE apprehend, that as Free-Men and
Englisk Subjects, we have an indisputable Title
to the same Privileges and Immunities with his
Majesty's other Subjects, who reside in the inte-
rior Counties of *Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks*,
and therefore ought not to be excluded from an
equal Share with them in the very important
Privilege of Legislation. Nevertheless, con-
trary to the Proprietors Charter, and the ac-
knowledgeed principles of Common Justice and
Equity, our five Counties are restrained from
electing more than ten Representatives, viz. Four
for *Lancaster*, Two for *York*, Two for *Cumber-*

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land, One for *Berks*, and One for *Northampton*; while the Three Counties (and City) of *Philadelphia*, *Chester*, and *Bucks*, elect Twenty-six; this we humbly conceive is oppressive, unequal and unjust, the Cause of many of our Grievances, and an infringement of our natural Privileges of Freedom and Equality, wherefore we humbly pray, that we may be no longer deprived of an equal Number with the Three aforesaid Counties, to represent us in Assembly.

2^{dly}. WE understand that a Bill is now before the House of Assembly, wherein it is Provided, that such Persons as shall be charged with killing any *Indians* in *Lancaster* County, shall not be tried in the County where the Fact was committed, but in the Counties of *Philadelphia*, *Chester*, or *Bucks*. This is manifestly to deprive *British* Subjects of their known Privileges, to cast an eternal Reproach upon whole Counties, as if they were unfit to serve their Country in the Quality of Jury-Men, and to contradict the well known Laws of the *British* Nation, in a point whereon Life, Liberty, and Security essentially depend: Namely, that of being tried by their Equals in the Neighbourhood where their own, their Accusers, and the Witnesses Character and Credit, with the Circumstances of the Fact are best known, and instead thereof, putting their Lives in the Hands of Strangers, who may as justly be suspected of Partiality to, as the Frontier Counties can be of Prejudices against *Indians*; and

this too in favour of Indians only, against his Majesty's faithful and loyal Subjects. Besides it is well known that the Design of it is to comprehend a Fact committed before such a Law was thought of. And if such Practices were tolerated, no man could be secure in his most invaluable Interests. We are also informed to our great Surprize, that this Bill has actually received the Assent of a Majority of the House, which we are perswaded could not have been the Case, had our Frontier Counties been equally represented in Assembly: However, we hope, that the Legislator of this Province will never enact a Law of so dangerous a tendency, or take away from his Majesty's good Subjects, a Privilege so long esteemed sacred by *English Men*.

3dly. DURING the late and present *Indian Wars*, the Frontiers of this Province have been repeatedly attacked and ravaged by Skulking parties of the Indians, who have with the most savage Cruelty, murdered Men, Women and Children, without distinction; and have reduced near a Thousand Families to the most extream Distress. It grieves us to the very Heart, to see such of our Frontier Inhabitants as have escaped from savage Fury, with the loss of their Parents, their Children, their Husbands, Wives, or Relatives, left destitute by the Public, and exposed to the most cruel Poverty and Wretchedness; while upwards of One Hundred and Twenty of the Savages, who are with great Reason suspect-

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ed of being guilty of these horrid Barbarities, under the Mask of Friendship, have procured themselves to be taken under the Protection of the Government, with a view to elude the Fury of the brave Relatives of the Murdered; and are now maintained at the public Expence: Some of these Indians now in the Barracks of *Philadelphia*, are confessedly a part of the *Wyandung* Indians, which Tribe is now at War with us; and the others are the *Moravian* Indians, who living amongst us under the Cloak of Friendship, carried on a Correspondence with our known Enemies on the *Great-Island*. We cannot but observe with Sorrow and Indignation, that some Persons in this Province are at pains to extenuate the barbarous Cruelties practised by these savages on our Murdered Brethren and Relatives, which are shocking to human Nature, and must pierce every Heart but those of the hardened Perpetrators or their Abettors. Nor is it less Distressing to hear others pleading, that altho' the *Wyandung* Tribe is at War with us, yet that part of it which is under the Protection of the Government may be friendly to the *English*, and Innocent. In what Nation under the Sun was it ever the Custom, that when a neighbouring Nation took up Arms, not an individual of the Nation should be touched, but only the Persons that offered Hostilities? Who ever proclaimed War with a part of a Nation, and not with the Whole? Had these Indians disapproved of the

Perfidy of their Tribe, and been willing to cultivate and preserve Friendship with us, why did they not give Notice of the War before it happened, as it is known to be the Result of long Deliberations, and a preconcerted Combination amongst them? Why did they not leave their Tribe immediately, and come amongst us before there was ground to suspect them, or War was actually waged with the Tribe? No, they stayed amongst them, were privy to their Murders and Ravages, untill we had destroyed their Provisions, and when they could no longer subsist at Home, they came, not as Deserters, but as Friends, to be maintained thro' the Winter, that they may be able to scalp and butcher us in the Spring.

AND as to the *Moravian Indians*, there are strong grounds, at least to suspect their Friendship, as it is known that they carried on a Correspondence with our Enemies, on the *Great Island*. We killed three *Indians* going from *Bethlehem* to the *Great-Island*, with Blankets, Ammunition and Provisions; which is an undeniable Proof, that, the *Moravian Indians* were in confederacy with our open Enemies. And we cannot but be filled with Indignation, to hear this Action of ours, painted in the most odious and detestable Colours, as if we had inhumanly murdered our Guides, who preserved us from perishing in the Woods; when we only killed three of our known Enemies, who attempted

to shoot us when we surprized them. And besides all this, we understand that one of these very *Indians* is proved by the Oath of *Stenton's* Widow to be the very Person that murdered her Husband. How then comes it to pass, that he alone of all the *Moravian Indians* should join with the Enemy to murder that Family? Or can it be supposed that any Enemy Indians contrary to their known Custom of making War, should penetrate into the Heart of a settled Country, to burn, plunder and murder the Inhabitants, and not molest any Houses on their Return, or ever be seen or heard of? Or how can we account for it that no Ravages have been committed in *Northampton County* since the Removal of the *Moravian Indians*, when the *Great Cove* has been struck since? These things put it beyond doubt with us, that the *Indians* now at *Philadelphia*, are His Majesty's perfidious Enemies, and therefore to protect and maintain them at the public Expence, while our suffering Brethren on the Frontiers are almost destitute of the Necessaries of Life and are neglected by the Public, is sufficient to make us mad with Rage, and tempt us to do what nothing but the most violent Necessity can vindicate. We humbly and earnestly pray therefore that these Enemies of his Majesty may be removed as soon as possible out of the Province.

4thly. WE humbly conceive that it is contrary to the Maxims of good Policy and extreamly dangerous

dangerous to our Frontiers, to suffer any *Indians* of what Tribe soever, to live within the inhabited Parts of this Province, while we are engaged in an *Indian War*; as Experience has taught us that they are all Perfidious, and their Claim to Freedom and Independency puts it in their Power to act as Spies, to entertain and give Intelligence to our Enemies, and to furnish them with Provisions and warlike Stores. To this fatal Intercourse between our pretended Friends and open Enemies we must ascribe the greatest Part of the Ravages and Murders that have been committed in the Course of this and the last *Indian War*. We therefore pray that this Greivance be taken under consideration and remedied.

5th. We cannot help lamenting that no Provision has been hitherto made, that such of our Frontier Inhabitants as have been wounded in defence of the Province, their Lives and Liberties, may be taken care of and cured of their Wounds at the public Expence. We therefore pray that this Grievance may be redressed.

6thly. In the late *Indian War* this Province, with others of his Majesty's Colonies gave rewards for *Indian* Scalps, to encourage the seeking them in their own Country, as the most likely Means of destroying or reducing them to reason. But no such Encouragement has been given in this War, which has damped the Spirits of many brave Men, who are willing to venture their Lives in Parties against the Enemy. We therefore

therefore pray that public Rewards may be proposed for *Indian* Scalps, which may be adequate to the Dangers attending Enterprises of this Nature.

7th. WE daily lament that Numbers of our nearest and dearest Relatives are still in Captivity amongst the savage Heathen, to be trained up in all their Ignorance and Barbarity, or be tortured to death with all the Contrivances of *Indian* cruelty, for attempting to make their Escape from Bondage. We see they pay no regard to the many solemn Promises which they have made to restore our Friends, who are in Bondage amongst them; we therefore earnestly pray that no Trade may hereafter be permitted to be carried on with them, untill our Brethren and Relatives are brought home to us.

8thly. WE complain that a certain Society of People in this Province in the late *Indian* War and at several Treaties held by the Kings Representatives, openly loaded the *Indians* with Presents and that ——— a Leader of the said Society, in defiance of all Government not only abetted our *Indian* Enemies, but kept up a private Intelligence with them, and publickly received from them a Belt of Wampum, as if he had been our Governor or authorized by the King to treat with his Enemies. By this Means the *Indians* have been taught to despise us as a weak and disunited People and from this fatal Source have arose many of our Calamities

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under which we groan. We humbly pray therefore this Grievance may be redressed and that no private Subject be hereafter permitted to treat with or carry on a Correspondence with our Enemies.

9thly. WE cannot but observe with sorrow that Fort *Augusta* which has been very expensive to this Province, has afforded us but little assistance, during this or the last War. The Men that were stationed at that Place neither helped our distressed Inhabitants to save their Crops, nor did they attack our Enemies in their Towns, or patrol on our Frontiers. We humbly request, that proper Measures may be taken to make that Garrison more serviceable to us in our Distress, if it can be done.

N. B. WE are far from intending any Reflection against the Commanding Officer stationed at *Augusta*, as we presume his Conduct was always directed by those from whom he received his Orders.

SIGNED on Behalf of ourselves, and by Appointment of a Great Number of the Frontier Inhabitants.

MATTHEW SMITH.
JAMES GIBSON.

February 13th, 1764.

F I N I S.

James Moon's
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